



## Tree Removal in Yosemite Valley

### Why are trees being removed at Yosemite Lodge?

Approximately 720 trees are being removed as part of the redevelopment effort at Yosemite Lodge. New construction will improve circulation and parking, reduce vehicle and pedestrian conflicts, remove rooms out of the Merced River floodplain, and replace rooms damaged in the 1997 flood. The *Yosemite Valley Plan* calls for improving the character of Yosemite Lodge by changing from a motel-type of experience to one more connected to a national park lodge experience in Yosemite Valley. The plan also calls for the removal of facilities from the river protection zone and floodplain. Construction will be phased in order to provide continuous operation of the existing Yosemite Lodge facilities.

### Why are trees being removed at the Pines Campgrounds?

Approximately 270 trees are being removed from the area between Upper and Lower Pines Campgrounds. This is the first of several construction projects to replace campsites lost in the 1997 flood. Thirty new campsites designed expressly for recreational vehicles are being constructed. Electrical hookups will be provided at all sites to reduce generator noise throughout the campground. Three of the sites have been designed with special furnishings to be fully accessible to all users. This is one in a series of campground improvement efforts were called for in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*.

### How does the park identify trees for removal?

First, a tree survey is completed by park staff, identifying trees that existed within the development area specified in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*. The survey identifies trees that are infected with root rot—a disease that weakens trees and can eventually kill them. The survey also identifies hazard trees—those that are defective in some way, which may cause them to fall and injure visitors or employees. In order to protect park wildlife, trees to be cut are also surveyed for the presence of sensitive bat and bird species.

Next, using information from the survey, the park develops a site plan which avoids large oak trees and minimized the loss of other mature trees to the greatest extent possible. Based on a review of the staked area, the site plan is revised where possible to minimize the loss of California black oak trees.

### What happens to trees after removal?

Logs from trees removed at both the project areas will be placed to direct foot traffic around the sites as an alternative to fencing. Woody debris will be chipped and made available for other sustainable uses, including using it in the park to smother non-native, invasive plants.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY...

The National Park Service is devoted to the safety of visitors and employees. Please heed these tips when near the work area:

- **Keep out of posted work areas, even after hours, as broken limbs can continue to drop.**
- **Warn children not to climb on stacks of logs, as fresh loose bark is extremely slippery, and never play on parked equipment.**